

PORATBLE ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT WITH FIELD-REPLACEABLE
BATTERY/INPUT/OUTPUT MODULE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A portable electronic instrument comprising a processing unit and a combined power and input/output module. The module includes a plurality of electrical contacts for mating to complementary contacts on a processing unit. The mating surfaces of the processing unit and module are shaped to provide a seal for the contacts when the module is attached to the instrument. The plurality of electrical contacts are connected to external ports that are accessible when the module is attached to the instrument. These ports may include DC power, AC power, and electric signal inputs and outputs.

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15 The module also includes mechanical features that enable it to be secured in the mated position with respect to the processing unit. These features may include interlocking tabs or holes for accepting screws. The module houses an energy storage device that may be a battery or a capacitor for

20 providing power to the processing unit.